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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1965

Medical Officer of Health :

GEORGE H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Retired 16th June, 1964)

R. SCHOFIELD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 17th June, 1964)

Public Health Inspectors :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. JOHN BRENNAN, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. DEREK M. BOLD, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Food Inspectors :

Public Health Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS

**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1965

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration the ninetieth Annual Report of the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1965 and as in previous years it has been compiled in the manner indicated by the Ministry of Health.

Introduction

The district is bounded by the Urban Districts of Abram, Billinge, Golborne and Haydock and the County Boroughs of Wigan and St. Helens.

Geologically the area is of coal and red sandstone and is approximately 6,265 acres.

Social Conditions

The population at the 1961 census was 19,260 and is now 21,720 (mid 1965). The proportion of persons over 65 years of age continues to rise. The density of population is rather more than 3 per acre. Coal mining has practically ceased but some light industry has moved into the district. Agriculture, textile weaving, rayon manufacture and iron foundry give employment to many of the population, but there is a need for additional industry to be introduced into the area.

The rateable value of property in the Urban District is £547,091 and a penny Rate yields £2,140.

The District is part of No. 8 Division of the Lancashire County Council who provide Child Welfare, Ante Natal and School Clinics, Health Visitors and the Midwives.

At the Queens Road Clinic there were 104 sessions.

The number of children born in the year of the report was 506 and these made 6,703 attendances at this clinic.

The Ante Natal Clinic held 40 sessions and the average number of Women attending was 43.3. 12 post-natal clinics were held, attended by 133 women; average number attending per session was 11.1.

More detailed and extended statistics are published in the Divisional Medical Officer's Report to the Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Circumstances

The Makerfield Water Board supervise the distribution of water, largely purchased from Liverpool Corporation to 7,674 houses by mains supply. The Makerfield Water Board also keep check on the bacteriological and chemical testing of the water, but after receiving complaints of unsatisfactory water supplies four bacteriological samples were taken. The first two samples were unsatisfactory but 2 further samples were reported as highly satisfactory.

The number of houses now on the water carriage disposal system is 7,579. House refuse is collected in approximately 8,200 bins and disposed of by Controlled tipping.

Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population 21,720

Comparability factors : Births 1.0

Deaths 1.14

Live Births

	Male	Female
Legitimate	228	252
Illegitimate	3	8
Total	231	260

Still Births

Legitimate	3	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	3	Nil

Deaths — infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	6	1
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	6	1

Deaths — infants under four weeks of age

Legitimate	4	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	4	Nil

Deaths — infants under one week of age

Legitimate	3	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	3	Nil

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)

Crude rate	12.3
Adjustment rate	14.1
Respiratory T.B.	0.09
Malignant neoplasms, etc.	2.16

Live Births per 1,000 estimated population

Crude rate	22.6
Adjusted rate	22.6

Still births rate per 1,000 total births

6.1

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total

births

Nil

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births

14.3

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live

births

8.1

Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000

live births

6.1

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total

births

12.1

Causes of Death	Sex	Total All ages	4 Under weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS							75 and over	
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis, Other	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2
Malignant, Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	4	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	6
	F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	5
Diabetes	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	15	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	7	4
	F	20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	8	8
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	11	5	7
	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	4	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Other Heart Disease	M	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5
	F	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	6
Other Circulatory Disease	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	2
Pneumonia	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Bronchitis	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Congenital Malformations	M	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	8	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
	F	15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	M	5	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Suicide	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL all Causes	M	145	4	2	1	2	3	1	6	11	36	35	44
	F	123	—	1	—	1	1	—	6	5	18	32	59

Infectious Disease

There was no epidemic disease during the year

Scarlet fever	notified	42
Whooping cough	notified	1
Measles	notified	115
Dysentery	notified	3
Acute pneumonia	notified	Nil
Tuberculosis — respiratory	notified	6
Tuberculosis other	notified	4
Food poisoning	notified	Nil
Meningoccal Infection	notified	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	notified	1

Immunisations and Vaccinations

Type	Pre-School Children	School Children	Adults
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus)			
Primary	443	3	—
Re-Inforcement	117	23	—
Combined Antigen (Diphtheria and Tetanus)			
Primary	—	3	—
Re-Inforcement	—	233	—
Smallpox Vaccinations			
Primary	175	2	1
Re-Vaccinations	4	1	4
Poliomyelitis Vaccinations			
Primary	631	8	—
Re-Inforcement	19	6	—

I desire to thank you for the very kind interest at all times taken in the matters affecting the health and environment of the Urban District. I must also extend my thanks to Mr. F. Burrows and other members of the staff for their ready and valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. SCHOFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1965

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Annual Report which gives details of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1965. I regret that the submission of the report has been delayed so long, but owing to staff shortages during the years 1965/1966 it was impossible to spend any time on this work. Due to the resignation of both additional public health inspectors during 1965, it was impossible for me to cope with other than routine work, complaints, improvement grants, etc., even though I more than doubled my normal working hours during some periods.

Although the time allocated to the inspection of unfit houses had to be strictly limited, thirty-four houses were dealt with and demolition or closing orders were made as appropriate.

The number of applications for Standard Grants increased again and although the supervision of the work is time consuming there is great satisfaction in knowing that a house has been provided with the extra amenities.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re	
nuisances and complaints	1,950
Nuisances discovered	1,460
Nuisances abated	1,230
Re-visits re nuisances	1,220
Visits re infectious disease	54
Re-visits re infectious disease	8
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed	
for sale	240
Visits to factories	146

Visits to dairies	16
Visits to Shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	132
Notices served (Preliminary)	237
Notices served (Statutory)	18
Legal Proceedings	Nil
Court Abatement Orders Made	Nil
Letters sent	587

Description of Nuisances Dealt With

Defective and damp walls	170
,, roofs	143
,, eavesgutters and rain water pipes	171
,, floors	20
,, sinks	6
,, wastepipes	17
,, plasterwork	181
,, windows	176
,, doors and frames	41
,, staircases	6
,, Chimneys and stacks	41
,, ventilating shafts	3
,, paving in yards and passages	21
,, washing boilers	3
,, W.C. cisterns	31
,, W.C. basins	25
,, W.C. supply pipes	51
,, W.C. structures	36
Choked or defective drains and drainage systems	150
Water under floors	29
Accumulation of refuse, etc.	25
Foul Odours	20
Filthy or verminous premises	11
Insufficient water supplies	25
Insufficient lighting	11
Noise Nuisances	9
Clean Air Act Infringements	13
Overcrowding	5
Miscellaneous	20

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

Eighteen families were rehoused from houses included in Clearance Areas or dealt with as Individual Unfit houses. Twenty-two houses were demolished and nine closed. The number of persons involved was forty-four.

During the year further inspections were made of houses which I hope will be dealt with in clearance areas in the near future, but it was not possible to report the details to the Public Health Committee for consideration during 1965.

At the end of the year 34 Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, but an estimated 230 premises were still occupied which should be dealt with by Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders.

Housing Statistics

1. Number of dwellings erected during the year :—

	Bunga-	Houses	lows
(i) By the local authority	Nil	71	
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil	
(iii) By other bodies or persons	133	187	

2. Number of Council owned dwellings at end of year 1,811

3. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :—

	Houses
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). Includes Slum Clearance Survey under Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 2/60)	323
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	760
(c) Number of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	186

(2) Total number of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which—

- (a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made 34
- (b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made 230

4. Houses Demolished: —

In Clearance Areas

	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	2	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957 ... Not in Clearance Areas	—	—	—
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957	20	14	8
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in unfitness Orders	—	—	—

5. Unfit Houses Closed: —

	Number	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	9	30	10
(2) Under Sections 17 (3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—

6. Unfit Houses Made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied:

		By Owner	By Local Authority
(1)	After informal action by local authority	87	Nil
(2)	After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	18	Nil
	(b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
(3)	Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

7. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—
Position at end of year:—

(1) Retained for temporary accommodation:—

	Number of Houses	Number of Separate dwellings contained in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
(a)	Under Section 48	—
(b)	Under Section 17 (2)	—
(c)	Under Section 46	—
(2)	Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	—

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:—

Number of
houses

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year

—

9. Housing Act 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—
Improvement grants etc:—

Action during year:—

	Private bodies or individuals	Local Authority
(a)	Submitted by private individuals to local authority	1
(b)	Approved by local authority	1
(c)	Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—
(d)	Finally approved by Ministry	—
(e)	Work completed	1
(f)	Additional separate dwellings in- cluded in (e) above	Nil
(g)	Any other action under the Acts: Nil	—

10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964—Standard Grants: —

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to full standard	72
(b) Applications approved by local authority for improvement to reduced standard ...	Nil
(c) Total applications approved by local authority for improvements to—	
(a) full standard	72
(b) reduced standard	Nil
(b) Work completed	67

There was again a further increase in the number of applications made for Standard Grants as compared with the previous year, although the applications from landlords were few in number.

The amenities provided were: —

Fixed baths	63
Showers	1
Wash Hand basins	66
Hot Water Supply (to any fittings)	65
Water Closets within dwellings	63
Food Stores	63

The total amount paid in grants was £8,157 12s. 3d. an average of £121 14s. 11d. per house.

It was not possible to carry out any surveys or work in connection with compulsory improvement areas.

Rent Act, 1957

At the end of 1964 an application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received and in January, 1965, the landlord concerned gave an undertaking to carry out the specified works.

Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises

Inspections of premises where food is stored, prepared and sold was continued during the year to impress on the occupiers, owners and staff the need for maintaining the highest possible standards of hygiene.

Although generally there is no cause for complaint and the standard of food premises continues to be improved there can be no relaxation in this work.

The amount of meat and offal dealt with at the Park Food Factory continues to increase and numerous visits have been paid, the majority of a routine nature, to ensure that all the food is sound. The owner of the factory supplies meat, etc. to numerous schools and hotels in various parts of the country, therefore, these inspections are most essential.

Type of Business

	No.
General Grocers and provision dealers	104
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game etc.)	15
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	17
Bakers and/or confectioners	12
Fried Fish shops	17
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	35
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	73
Other	8

The next table gives the type and number of premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, Sections 115 and 116.

Sale of Ice-Cream	65
Manufacturer of Cooked Meat and Sausages	12
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	3
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles	4
Storage of Fruit and vegetables sold from vehicles	10

Food Condemned

1 lb. Lard	1 Packet Rusks
5 lbs. butter	1 Packet Salt
7 lbs. Margarine	9 packets Crisps
25½ lbs. Boiled Ham	1 Packet Oats
407 lbs. Meat Trimmings	1 Packet Instant Potato
16½ lbs. Shoulder Steak	4 Packets Sponge Mixture
38 lbs. Frozen Ox Crop	5 Packets Chipples

2 Jars Minced Chicken	8 Tins Ox Tongue
1 Jar Marmalade	1 Tin Ham
2 Jars Onions	10 Tins Stewed Steak
1 Jar Coffee	1 Tin Sardines
1 Bottle Quosh	4 Tins Carrots
2 Cakes	68 Tins Fruit
3 Fruit Pies	3 Tins Carrots and Turnips
2 Pie Fillings	21 Tins Peas
1 Turkey	2 Tins Pilchards
1 Plum Pudding	8 Tins Cream
1 Tin Breakfast Grill	4 Tins Corned Beef
1 Tin Salad Cream	26 Tins Tomatoes
1 Tin Rice Pudding	1 Tin Beef Stew
1 Tin Meat Pudding	13 Tins Beans
1 Tin Salmon	29 Tins Cooked Ham
6 Tins Cooked Pork Loin	2 Tins Chicken
4 Tins Evaporated Milk	1 Tin Soup
1 Tin Kipper Snacks	

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are 10 dairy farms producing milk within the district in addition to 6 registered dairies.

Visits have been paid to all these premises in addition to shops from which sterilized milk is sold. The results of milk samples taken are as follows: —

Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	14
Negative	14
Positive	Nil
No result	Nil
Phosphatase Test	13
Satisfactory	13
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	13
Satisfactory	13
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	7
Satisfactory	7
Unsatisfactory	Nil

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order is operative in the Urban District and only designated milk may be sold in sealed bottles or containers.

The Lancashire County Council notified the Public Health Department that a positive Brucella Abortus result had been obtained from a sample of milk taken from a farm in the district. Samples of milk were taken from every cow on the farm by a veterinary surgeon engaged by the farmer and were submitted for test. Four animals were found to be excreting organisms of Brucella Abortus and were destroyed.

Ice Cream

There are seventy-five premises registered under Section 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act for the sale of ice-cream.

There is one manufacturer of heat treated ice-cream in the district and his premises are inspected regularly. These premises are modern and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained both in the buildings and with the fleet of vehicles that operate over a large area in Lancashire. Thirty-three samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows.

	Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade I	20	12
Provisional Grade II	1	Nil
Provisional Grade III	Nil	Nil
Provisional Grade IV	Nil	Nil

Ice Lollies

Twenty-one samples were taken all being satisfactory.

Ice Cream Lollies

One sample was taken, the result being as follows:—

Grade I	1
---------------	---

Licensed Premises

In the Urban District there are thirty public houses, seven out-door licences and eighteen clubs. It was not possible to make more than cursory visits to these premises and generally the standard is high although it was necessary in some instances to give advice regarding the sterilisation of glasses.

Pet animals Act, 1951

There are only two shops licensed for the keeping and sale of pets. The occupiers are fully aware of the requirements of the Act and there has been no cause for complaint.

Petroleum (Regulations) Act

The number of applications for licences for the storage of petroleum again increased, the total now being forty-one and the fees received amounted to £32 5s. 0d.

The need for supervision also increases each year due to the additional regulations and codes of practice issued by the Home Office.

New installations are supervised and the requisite tests carried out. The co-operation of the contractors engaged in this work is much appreciated and the petroleum companies are always willing to comply with any request which helps in reducing the risk of accidents. It was necessary during the year to carry out inspections to deal with the provision of the type of fire extinguishers recommended for use at petroleum stations.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A weekly collection of household refuse was continued except during the annual holiday week and the high standard of previous years was maintained although there was a certain amount of unrest among the employees regarding lack of dining facilities, etc. Due to these complaints and the need for a wage incentive, I submitted special reports to the Committee on various types of bonus schemes. The Council decided to engage the services of a firm of work study consultants and the study commenced in December, 1965.

The vehicles now engaged in refuse collection are as follows:—

Two 18 cubic yard capacity, dual tip rear loading Karriers.

Three 7 cubic yard capacity side loading Bedfords.

One 18/24 cubic yard capacity Karrier compression loader which was delivered at the latter end of 1965.

One converted pail van is used for salvage collection and a 600 gallon Dennis gully emptier is used for pail collection.

It will be possible to dispense with the older side loaders when the routes have been rearranged.

The Carr Mill refuse tip culvert was completed and a valuable tipping site is now available for use for a period of from 20 to 30 years.

There is need for a refuse collection vehicle to be available for emergency use and also for an earth mover/scraper for tip control. A machine of this type would consolidate the tip, prevent fires, reduce nuisances and prevent damage to the refuse collection vehicles caused by insecure and uneven surfaces.

Dustbin Provision Scheme

A scheme for the provision of dustbins is operated and 391 bins were delivered to new dwellings whilst 259 were issued to replace defective bins at other premises.

The following statistics give details of the sanitary accommodation in the area.

Number of pail closets at end of 1964 (approximately)		131
Less number converted	22	
Less number demolished	7	29
	—	—
	29	102
Total number of pail closets at end of 1965		102
Number of water closets at end of 1964 (approximately) including troughs and waste water	8,008	
Number of conversions	22	
Number of fresh water closets at new dwellings ...	391	
Number of extra water closets erected	88	
	—	—
	8,509	
Number of water closets demolished	Nil	
	—	—
Number of water closets at end of 1965	8,509	
	—	—
Number of waste water closets included above	14	
Number of moveable dustbins at end of 1964 (approximately)	7,851	
Number of new dwellings	391	
Bins provided at other premises	Nil	
	—	—
	8,242	
Number of bins at properties demolished	36	
	—	—
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1965	8,204	
	—	—

Salvage of Waste Paper

The salvage of waste paper continued and a total of 247 tons 4 cwts.

2 qrs. was collected and disposed of. The income from the sale amounted to £2,170 4s. 4d.

The need for a new electric baling machine of greater capacity increases each year and when the new premises are available one should be provided without delay.

Trade Refuse

A charge of 6d. per bin per week is made for the collection of refuse from trade premises. The sum of £147 2s. 2d. was received for this service.

Factories Act, 1961

	Inspections	Written Notices
Number of factories on register: 133.		
With Mechanical Power	109	121
Without Mechanical Power	18	18
Other Premises (Not outworkers) ...	6	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	133	146
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		7

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Unsuitable closet accommodation	9	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	9	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Registered Premises

Cafes and Snack Bars	2
Bakers and Confectioners	12
Plumbers	5
Builders	18
Smiths	2
Motor and cycle repairers	27
Painters	4
Clothing Manufacturers	2
Saddler	1
Corrugated Board Containers	1
Wholesale Warehouse	1
Lock and hinge manufacturers	3
Laundries	2
Printers	1
Basket Maker	1
Dental Mechanic	1
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	2
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	2
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	2

Sausage makers	7
Wholesale Chemists	1
Cotton weavers	1
Boot, shoe repairers	3
Gas holders	1
Electricians	5
Sawmills	5
Agricultural machinery repairers	2
Cinemas	1
Food Preparation	1
Demolition Contractors	1
Cattle Food preparation	1
General Engineering	8
Scrap Metal Dealers	1

127

Section 110

There were no outworkers resident in the district employed by firms carrying on business outside this area.

Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	7

Smoke Abatement

Clean Air Act, 1956

The Council's policy remains unchanged regarding smoke control areas, but action has been taken to deal with atmospheric pollution from local factories. Discussions took place in connection with fume nuisance from the core moulding shop at the factory in the centre of the town and in addition, action was taken to reduce grit nuisance from an adjoining factory.

It is still necessary to visit disused spoilbanks that continue to burn in some parts and one privately owned colliery still being operated gives cause for concern when spontaneous combustion occurs.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Moveable Dwellings

There are no licensed caravan sites in the district, but in the Edge Green area, common land was occupied on numerous occasions by caravan dwellers. They have no regard to hygienic practices and despoil the land in the area in which they site their caravans. A great deal of time was spent in dealing with these persons and it was necessary on many occasions to seek the assistance of the local police.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

All notified cases of specified infectious diseases are visited and disinfection is carried out in the majority of cases. Enquiries are made in an effort to trace the probable source of infection, but it is very rare that any two cases seem to be connected in any way. Library books are disinfected and in some instances, by arrangement with the Librarian, destroyed if of small value. Forty-eight premises were disinfected.

Disinfestation

The number and type of infestation dealt with was as follows:—

Council Houses	19	Other Houses	52
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The houses were treated for the following infestations:—

Cockroaches	22	Silverfish	2
Bugs	3	Ants	33
Wasps	4	Bees	3
Flies	1	Red Spider	3
Earwigs	2		

Rodent Control

One full time rodent operator was employed in dealing with infestations and in searching the district to find minor infestations in an effort to reduce the build-up of rodents in any particular site.

The number of cases dealt with was only slightly less than the previous year and if staff had been available no doubt the number of visits would have been higher.

The problem I referred to in the 1964 report in respect of infestations at newly erected dwellings still remained and caused considerable worry to the occupiers and wasted the time of the rodent operator and the public health inspectors in eradicating the infestations.

One notice was served under the provisions of Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 on the occupier of a dwelling to cause him to clean up his yard and outbuildings.

The refuse disposal site was treated as required, together with the sewage works and other local authority premises. Domestic premises are treated free of charge, but a charge is made for treatments carried out at business premises.

The annual report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is as follows:—

		Non Agricultural Dwelling Houses	All Other	Agricultural
(a)	Number of properties in District	7,686	890	54
(b)	Number of properties inspected	1,906	168	Nil
(c)	Total inspections carried out includ- ing re-inspections	2,010	216	61
(d)	Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:			
	Rats — major	Nil	Nil	Nil
	minor	328	12	Nil
	Mice — major	Nil	Nil	Nil
	minor	26	6	Nil
(e)	Number of infested properties treated	354	18	Nil
(f)	Total treatments carried out (includ- ing re-treatments)	360	51	Nil
(g)	Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	Nil	Nil	Nil

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Visits were made to all agricultural units in the district to ensure that the provisions of this Act were being complied with. Permanent and temporary workers must be provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences. There are forty-six such units in the area.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

It was not possible to devote much time to this most important Act which was introduced to improve the standard of premises in which a large number of persons spend their working lives. In July a letter was received from H.M. Deputy Superintending Inspector of Factories calling the Council's attention to the fact that many premises had not been inspected, but owing to staff shortages this situation could not be altered.

The following details give an indication of the work outstanding and is an extract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Labour.

Class of Premises	No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Premises Receiving a General Inspection during year
Offices	22	8
Retail Shops	74	9
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	15	Nil
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	Nil
TOTALS.....	112	17

Thirty-five visits were made to premises registered under the Act and thirty-three contraventions were found and dealt with.

Public Conveniences

There was no improvement regarding malicious damage caused by irresponsible persons to coin boxes, fixtures and fittings. The attendants have carried out their duties in an efficient manner and with the help of the local police have tried to reduce the number of cases of damage, but in no case was a culprit apprehended.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued Circular 15/65 and requested local authorities to provide hand washing and drying facilities in public conveniences. I feel that the persons responsible for the issue of the circular are not conversant with the type and amount of damage done at public conveniences that have no full time attendant.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Complaints regarding alleged noise nuisances continued to be received and all complaints were investigated. Many were found to be of a trivial and purely domestic nature. In many instances it was possible to secure abatement of the nuisances informally.

Hairdressers and Barbers

Bye-laws to control the hygiene of hairdressing premises and equipment used were made in December, 1962 and inspections have been made of all premises registered with the Council.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 -- Section 86

Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers

This section of the Act requires dealers in scrap metal and marine store dealers to register with the local authority in whose district their premises are situated. One person and his premises are registered with this authority and full co-operation has been given by him when I have visited his premises to inspect his trading records.

Food and Drugs Act

The County Council is the Authority responsible for the sampling

of food and drugs within the district and the County Medical Officer of Health has supplied the following details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers during 1965.

A total of 106 samples was obtained comprising 59 milks (10 of which were channel islands milk) and 47 others as follows:—

4 Tea	2 Margarine
1 Peeled shrimps, canned	1 Rice
4 Fruit, canned	1 Milk, full cream condensed unsweetened
4 Fish canned	1 Coffee and chicory essence liquid.
3 Cream, sterilized, canned	1 Tapioca
2 Sweets	1 Vegetables, dried
1 Mineral water	1 Mustard compound
1 Demarara sugar	1 Table jelly
1 Icing sugar	1 Baking Powder
1 Milk, condensed skin sweetened	2 Golden raising powder
1 Mustard sauce	1 British Sherry
1 Solid cream	1 British red wine
1 Epsom salts B.P.	1 Cream sherry
1 Zinc and castor oil B.P.	1 Ruby wine
1 Paracetamol tablets	1 Fruit Curd
1 Tincture of iodine B.P.	
1 Fruit salt	
1 Saccharin sod. tablets	

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 formal milk	Deficient 6.6% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Producer notified
1 Peeled shrimps	Contained 85 parts per million formaldehyde.	Non advised
1 tincture of iodine	Iodine content 2.93% B.P. limits 2.4 — 2.7%. Potassium iodine content 3.0% (limits 2.4 — 2.7%).	Packers notified

In conclusion I must repeat my regret for the late appearance of this report and express the hope that the 1966 report will be submitted earlier in 1967. The thanks of myself and the Council are due to Miss K. Kynaston for her unselfish and devoted attention to her work during the period of staff shortages. I must also thank the Chairman and members of the Sanitary and Health Committee and colleagues in all departments for their co-operation and forbearance during those difficult months.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Ezra Sidebotham Ltd., Wigan